## PROFILE OF THE MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE

The legislative power of the state of Michigan is vested in a **bicameral** (2-chamber) body comprised of a senate and a house of representatives. The senate consists of 38 members who are elected by the qualified electors of districts having approximately 212,400 to 263,500 residents (under the 1992 apportionment plan, senate districts range in population from approximately 225,000 to 265,000 residents). Senators are elected at the same time as the governor and serve 4-year terms concurrent with the governor's term of office. The house of representatives consists of 110 members who are elected by the qualified electors of districts having approximately 77,000 to 91,000 residents. Representatives are elected in even-numbered years to 2-year terms. Legislative districts are drawn on the basis of population figures obtained through the federal decennial census. Terms for senators and representatives begin on January 1, following the November general election. Effective with terms of office beginning on or after January 1, 1993, state legislators (as well as the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, and attorney general) are subject to **term limitations**. State senators may not be elected more than 2 times and state representatives may not be elected more than 3 times.

The state legislature enacts the laws of Michigan; levies taxes and appropriates funds from money collected for the support of public institutions and the administration of the affairs of state government; proposes amendments to the state constitution, which must be approved by a majority vote of the electors; and considers legislation proposed by initiatory petitions. The legislature also provides oversight of the executive branch of government through the administrative rules and audit processes, committees, and the budget process; advises and consents, through the senate, on gubernatorial appointments; and considers proposed amendments to the Constitution of the United States. The majority of the legislature's work, however, entails lawmaking. Through a process defined by the state constitution, statute, and legislative rules, the legislature considers thousands of bills (proposed laws) during each 2-year session.



Senate Chamber



House Chamber